

BURR OAK WOODS CONSERVATION NATURE CENTER is located one mile north of I-70 on Hwy 7, one mile west on Park Road. The Nature Center is open Monday through Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and noon to 5:00 p.m. on Sundays. **Area Hours: During central day light time 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** No pets are allowed. There is no admission fee. **Phone: 816-228-3766 TDD: 816-655-6268**



Burr Oak Woods Junior Naturalist Program

I can't wait to tell you about this new program! To become a Junior Naturalist you will follow activities outlined in a special workbook designed just for you (available at the front desk). The great thing about this program is that you can complete the activities with your family at your own pace. You will play Nature Bingo, do a habitat study, plan your own wildlife habitat, participate in a treasure hunt, become a nature educator, and much, much more! Upon completion of your notebook, you will earn a cool prize and a certificate that will identify you as a student of nature and someone who cares about the natural world. Check out the Junior Naturalist exhibit in the nature center for more information. You will want to get started today!



The Nutshell
Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center
Missouri Department of Conservation
1401 NW Park Road - Blue Springs, Mo 64015

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The Nutshell

Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center Newsletter

Volume 19 December 2005 Number 12



***Thank you, to all our visitors and
volunteers for a great year in 2005!***



Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center Staff

Helping Missourians connect with nature and conserve it, too!

D e c e m b e r P r o g r a m s

PROGRAM REGISTRATION

Please call 816-228-3766 (TDD 816-655-6268) **ON OR AFTER THE FIRST OF THE MONTH** to register for the free programs listed. It is important to arrive five minutes before the program time.

If you have to cancel, please call as soon as possible so someone on the waiting list can attend.

3 *Saturday*

Missouri Conservation Frontiers:

Animal Signs

Winter is a great time to discover the many signs animals leave behind. Their tracks are left in the snow and mud and the bare trees reveal many things that are otherwise hidden by leaves, such as their homes, traces of fur, or maybe even the wildlife themselves! Join us as we bundle up and venture out to discover the signs that tell us animals are still out and about. Dress for the weather. Please call to register. **All Ages / 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. or 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.**

4 *Sunday*

Families:

Winter Walk - Hickory Grove Trail

Do you feel like you are sleeping the winter away by staying indoors all winter? Well, grab your coat and hat and get out of the house! Join us for a crisp walk down the Hickory Grove Trail as we look at all the winter wildlife. Dress for the weather. Please call to register. **Families (with children age 5 and up) / 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.**

6 *Tuesday*

Adults Only:

Candle Holders

SAVE THOSE TIN CANS! We are planning a recycled craft project to turn those cans into festive candle holders. This craft can be as simple or complex as you wish, all you need is the creativity! You can make up to 6 candle holders so please bring 1 to 6 empty tin cans for your project. Please call to register. **Adults Only (age 20 and up) / 10:00 a.m. - Noon.**

6 *Tuesday*

O.A.K.S. Outdoors:

(Older Adults Keeping Strong Outdoors)

Movie and Popcorn

Joi□

Featured film will be the acclaimed *Winged Migration!* Please call to register. **Adults (ages 55 and up) / 2:30 - 4:30 p.m.**

7 *Wednesday*

Adults Only:

Traditional Grapevine Wreath

What December holiday season would be complete without a traditional holiday wreath? We will provide a variety of natural items to decorate your grapevine; you provide the creativity to make your wreath unique! Please bring a grapevine wreath and any other items you might like to add. Please call to register. **Adults Only (ages 20 and up) / 10:00 a.m. - Noon.**

10 *Saturday*

Kids Craft Day

It's that time of year again! Time for our annual holiday KIDS CRAFT DAY! We will have a variety of crafts available for you to make, wrap, and take home as gifts for your loved ones. Different crafts will be available for skill levels from 3 year old and up. As always, our programs are FREE OF CHARGE! Help us continue this holiday tradition by joining us between 10 am and 1pm on December 10th. No registration is required. HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE! **All Ages / 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

13 *Tuesday*

Conservation Kid's Club:

Mammals, Mazes, and More!

Too much fun on a cold winter's night! Join the club as we learn about the mammals that call Burr Oak Woods home. How do they survive the long harsh winter? What do they eat? Who might be out and about on a cold winter evening? Indoor activities will help us to discover the mysterious life of these mammals. We will then venture outdoors and try our skill at tracking Missouri's wild mammals. What will we find? Dress for the weather! Please call to register. **Ages 7 - 10 / 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.**

For more information call us at 816-228-3766 or visit our web site at burroakwoods.org

D e c e m b e r P r o g r a m s

14 *Wednesday*

Homeschool:

Mammal Tracking

There is no better time to get out into the cold and jump into the snow in search of mammal tracks!! Yes, those furry critters are still out and we will try to track them down. We will search for mammal tracks and discover the mystery to which they lead and learn other signs we can look for to track them down. Dress to be outdoors. Please call to register.

Ages 3 -5 or 6 - 8 / 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. or 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Ages 9 - 11 or 12 yr and up 10:00 -11:30 a.m. or 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

15 *Thursday*

Little Acorns:

Soar like an Eagle

Winter is a special time in Missouri for Bald Eagles. They congregate near open water and eat injured or sick waterfowl until the lakes and rivers freeze over. In this Little Acorns program, we will discover more about the bald eagle and learn how to *Soar Like An Eagle!* Hope to see you there! Please call to register. **Ages 3 - 6 / 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. or 11:00 - Noon or 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.**

17 *Saturday*

Deaf and Hard of Hearing:

Birds at Cooley Lake

Dress warmly and bring binoculars if you have them. Cooley Lake is a great place to see migratory waterfowl. If we are lucky, we might even see a bald eagle! Bring sack lunch. This program will be presented in sign language. Meet at Burr Oak Woods. Please call to register. **Ages 8 - up / 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

17 *Saturday*

Adults: Brain Tanned Leather

Deer Hunters! Have you ever experienced the richness of brain tanned leather? This series of special workshops will teach you how to tan your own deer hide in the ancient custom of the American Indian. In preparation, you will need to save your deer hide by rolling it up, hair to the inside, double bag it, and store it in the freezer. Place the deer's brain in a zip-lock bag and freeze it as well. Workshop classes will be held on Saturday, December 17, January 21 and February 25, all three classes must be attended. Watch the Nutshell for January and February times. This will be a labor intensive program and attendance is limited. After registration, you must bring properly tagged deer hide and brain to Burr Oak Woods no later than December 10. **Ages 16 and up / 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

17 *Saturday*

Rockin' & Readin' Nature Tales

Join us for our story hour as we lead you on fantastic nature adventures! We will meet butterflies, birds, mammals, and all sorts of magnificent creatures! We will cross rivers, discover mysteries within the forest, and fly across the prairies. We are only limited by our imagination. Your child(ren) will not want to miss these stories of exploration and discovery. No registration required. **Ages 2 and up / 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.**

17 *Saturday*

Bird in the Hand

Join special guest, Craig Hensley for an up-close look at the songbirds that visit the bird feeding station at Burr Oak Woods. We will capture, identify, band and then release songbirds, from juncos and chickadees to downy woodpeckers and goldfinches. Registration is not required for this hands-on, educational program. **All Ages / 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

18 *Sunday*

The One That Didn't Get Away

Join your neighbors and Burr Oak Woods Staff for an afternoon of stories of the one that didn't get away (I guess bring your stories of the one that did get away too!). This will be an informal meeting of area hunters with stories of this years deer hunt. Coffee and donuts will be p□

want to have plenty of coffee and donuts for all attending). **All Ages / 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.**

For more information call us at 816-228-3766 or visit our web site at burroakwoods.org

Important Notice to Visitors:

Burr Oak Woods Managed Deer Hunts

- For your safety the area will be closed to public traffic. Walking the roadways and trails is prohibited during the managed deer hunts. The Nature Center will be open and available to the public.
- Muzzleload Managed Hunt; December 5, 6 and 7.

Nature Shop News



December Featured Item

Birds in Missouri

Regular price \$30.00
Featured price \$24.00
Heritage Card discount does not apply

The 2006 Natural Events Calendar

from MDC are available
\$5.⁰⁰ plus tax
or
\$4.²⁵ plus tax
with your Heritage Card



Burr Oak Woods Volunteer Class of 2006: We Need You!

We will begin a new volunteer training class in January! If you are interested in sharing your love for nature with others, we need you! Volunteer Naturalists help the Nature Center staff in so many ways, including: assisting with our educational programs, special events, clerical support, animal care, and land management projects. We are currently accepting applications for the 2006 Volunteer Training Class. To apply for this training, please stop by or contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Lisa LaCombe at (816)655-6263 ext. 232 between now and January 3rd. We anticipate that the 30 hour training class will begin the end of January and run through April culminating in graduation of the Volunteer Class of 2006!



DECEMBER PROGRAMS AT LAKE CITY RANGE

816-229-4448 28900

E Argo Road

Grain Valley, Mo 64029

Website for Lake City Shooting Range and
Outdoor Education Center

www.mdc.state.mo/areas/ranges/lakecity

We are pleased to let people know about several of the programs offered by the Missouri Department of Conservation's Lake City Range. Be sure to call 816-229-4448 for information and to register for these programs.

5 Saturday

Shotgun Fun Shoot: Multi-target
Families / 9:00 a.m. - Noon

17 Saturday

Reloader's Clinic
9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

17 Saturday

Shooter's Appreciation Day
All Ages / Noon - 3:00 p.m.

20 Tuesday

Firearm Care and Cleaning
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Connect online to

Connect outdoors!

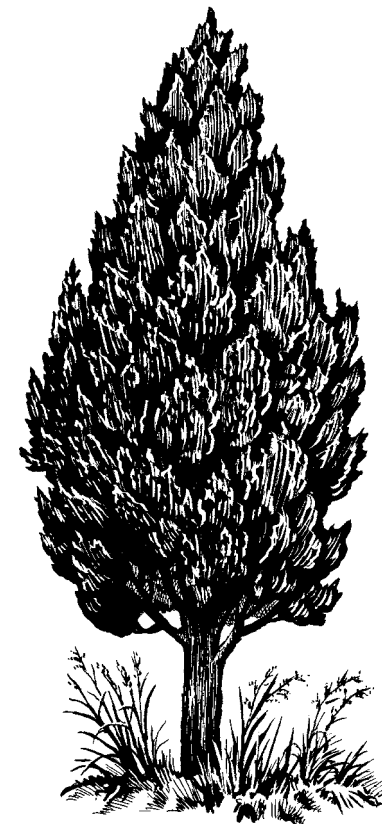
Log on to www.KCNature.org to find out about the best nature has to offer in the Kansas City area:

Bird Watching **Orienteering**
Hiking **Family Activities**
Butterfly Gardens **Group Tours**
Wildflowers **Summer Camps**
And Much More!

You'll find maps, a calendar of events and a searchable listing of all types of nature activities - everything you need to discover Kansas City's natural treasures.

ONE SITE - ONE CLICK - ALL NATURAL

www.KCNature.org



Third Annual Burr Oak Woods Photography Competition

Completed entries must be submitted to the Nature Center no later than December 15th. Photographs will be on display during the month of January. All photographs must be taken at Burr Oak Woods. Subject matter may include landscapes, wildlife, people, or events at Burr Oak Woods.

Photography Contest rules are available at the front desk.

**Winners will be announced on
January 29 at 1:00 p.m.**

Missouri Department of Conservation:

Eagle Days 2005-2006

Special events are scheduled throughout the state! Pick up an events schedule at the Nature Center today! Join us at Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge on December 3 & 4 between 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Events include live eagle programs, wild eagle viewing, and fun-filled activities for the whole family! Call 816-228-3766 for more information.



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**Come join us as we feed
the animals at
Burr Oak Woods CNC
Sunday, Wednesday or
Friday at 3:00 p.m.**

Natural Happenings

- Listen for the hooting of the great-horned owl and barred owl. They begin breeding this month.
- Look for animal tracks after a fresh snow fall.
- Bald eagles are arriving at Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge.
- River otters, gray squirrels, and red foxes are breeding.

